

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04832 271934Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05
EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W
-----056526 271938Z /46

O R 271818Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9661
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU -- MEDIA COVERAGE AND COMMENT

REF: SANTIAGO 4804

1. SUMMARY: A FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASE OF JUNE 26 CODIFIES FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS' STATEMENTS OF RECENT DAYS. "EL MERCURIO" DEVOTES LEAD EDITORIAL TO AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S DEPARTURE AND CONCLUDES THAT CHILE CANNOT YIELD TO FOREIGN PRESSURES. "EL CRONISTA'S" EDITORIAL ACCUSES THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN THE US OF BEING OUT TO OVERTHROW CHILE'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT; IT HAS A NEWS-ANALYSIS STORY CRITICAL OF US FOREIGN POLICY-MAKING, AND THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE SAYS THAT US BUSINESSMEN ARE INTERESTED IN CHILE -- NOT CARTER. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASE. A FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASE OF JUNE 26 APPEARS TO PULL TOGETHER VARIOUS STATEMENTS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS IN RECENT DAYS (WHILE IN WASHINGTON TO ATTEND THE OASGA) AND WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY HERE ON RADIO, TV AND IN THE PRESS. CUBILLOS' MAIN POINTS ARE THAT: AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S RETURN WAS NOT UNEXPECTED BUT THAT AS MEANS OF PRESSURING
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04832 271934Z

CHILE IT IS UNACCEPTABLE; THAT THE TIMING DURING THE OASGA RAISES QUESTIONS WHETHER US OBJECTIVES ARE LEGAL OR POLITICAL; THAT WHILE THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU IS INOPPORTUNE, IT NEVERTHELESS MAY SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE SINCE HE CAN EXPLAIN THE CHILEAN POSITION TO HIS SUPERIORS; THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S LINKING OF HIS RETURN TO THE OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS MATTER WAS SURPRISING IN AS MUCH AS THE USG IS WELL AWARE OF AND HAS PRAISED CHILEAN PROGRESS; THAT

CHILE HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN THE LETELIER CASE, CONSISTENT WITH ITS INTERNAL LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE; AND, THAT, IN REALITY IT IS THE USG THAT HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE THE COOPERATION PROMISED (EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF RELEASE TRANSMITTED SANTIAGO 4822).

3. "EL MERCURIO" EDITORIAL. SANTIAGO'S LEADING NEWSPAPER, WHICH OFTEN APPEARS TO HAVE A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH GOC OPINION-MOLDERS, DEVOTED ITS LEAD EDITORIAL JUNE 27 TO AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S RETURN. IN A RATHER UNISPIRED PERFORMANCE, IT REPEATS THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TWO ELEMENTS OF COOPERATION ON WHICH THE GOC HAS BALKED (REPORTED IN YESTERDAY'S PAPERS) AND STRESSES THE REASONABLENESS OF THE CHILEAN REFUSALS. IT THEN GOES OVER IN DETAIL THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASE OF JUNE 26 (PARA 2 ABOVE). IT CONCLUDES "THAT FOR ANY INDEPENDENT NATION IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE

THE A DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TRY TO EXERT POLITICAL PRESSURE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN POLICE INFORMATION SUCH AS THAT INDICATED ABOVE. TO GIVE INTO SUCH PRESSURE WOULD BE TO ACCEPT BY FORCE THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS CAN EXERCISE CONTROL OVER MATTERS PERTAINING TO CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY ... THE AGREED COOPERATION IS PROVIDED AND WILL BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LAWS AND DIGNITY WHICH MUST NEVER BE CONFUSED WITH SUBMISSION OR WITH THE LOSS OF SELF-RESPECT."

4. "EL CRONISTA" EDITORIAL. IN DEVOTING ITS SECOND EDITORIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 04832 271934Z

IN TWO DAYS TO THE LETELIER CASE, GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA" JUNE 27 ARGUES THAT THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLOIT THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU FOR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES -- THE OVERTHROW OF CHILE'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT. IT NOTES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE MEDIA IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE NOT POINTED OUT THAT THE RECALLING OF AMBASSADORS FOR CONSULTATION IS A NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE, AND THAT THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CONFUSE THE REASONS FOR LANDAU'S RETURN BY REFERENCE TO THE SENTENCE OF REVIEWING CHILE'S HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN THE UNITED STATES UNDERMINE CITIZEN BELIEF IN THE EQUANIMITY AND REASONED JUDGMENT OF THEIR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

5. THERE IS OF COURSE TREMENDOUS IRONY IN "EL CRONISTA" EDITORIAL OF TODAY. IN RECENT WEEKS IT HAS BECOME EVEN MORE SENSATIONALIST THAN "ULTIMAS NOTICIAS" AND "LA SEGUNDA" AND WITH A MUCH MORE CLEARLY PRONOUNCED POLITICAL SLANT. THE NEWSPAPER'S MAIN HEADLINE JUNE 27 CLAIMS TO QUOTE AMERICAN INVESTORS AS SAYING "WE ARE INTERESTED IN CHILE, NOT CARTER." THE SECONDARY HEADLINE DESCRIBES THREE VISITING WEST GERMAN POLITICIANS AS "GERMAN SPIES" AND REPORTS THAT THEY MADE THEIR FIRST CONTACT AFTER ARRIVAL WITH THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY. IN A NEWS ANALYSIS STORY ON

PAGES 2 AND 3 "EL CRONISTA" SEEMS TORN BETWEEN TRYING TO CLAIM THAT THE CARTER FOREIGN POLICY IS TOTALLY INEPT (A ZIGZAG COURSE REQUIRING FREQUENT CLARIFICATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT) AND THAT THERE IS SOME CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN RECENT ACTIVITIES (E.G. AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S RETURN AND THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH) THAT CONSTITUTE A POLICY OF INTERVENTION AGAINST CHILE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA04832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780266-0566
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780616/aaaaanis.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae7ae57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTIAGO 4804
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2192883
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU -- MEDIA COVERAGE AND COMMENT
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PDIP, SOPN, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae7ae57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014